



MONTHLY UPDATE

TOOELE CHEMICAL AGENT DISPOSAL FACILITY

March 20, 2014

A changing skyline

TOCDF demolition moving quickly

The Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF) is quickly disappearing as crews continue to move through the demolition zones, tearing down structures and clearing the debris. Crews recently tore down three significant structures—the Pollution Abatement System, common stack and PAS Filtration System (PFS) enclosure—dramatically changing the TOCDF skyline.

The PFS enclosure and common stack came down within a few hours of each other on February 28. Crews first tackled the large PFS enclosure, which was TOCDF's newest structure. The equipment operator clipped at the support beams until the massive structure folded as it came to the ground. The PFS was built in 2008-09, and used sulfur-impregnated carbon to capture mercury compounds from the incinerator exhaust gases.

The common stack was the next to go. The stack,

along with its monitoring house and support structure, gracefully fell to the ground as the attached cable pulled the structure over. As one of the most recognized features of the TOCDF, this stack was connected to the plant's PAS and is where the clean, scrubbed emissions from the destruction operations were finally released to the atmosphere.

"Clearing these two structures made it possible for the demolition crew to next focus on the tallest structure—the Pollution Abatement System," explained Randy Fowles, URS demolition project manager.

In less than two weeks, the area was cleared and final preparations were underway to bring down the PAS—a 90-foot tall, 200-foot wide structure that housed the PAS equipment used to cool and clean the exhaust gases from each operating furnace during (See TOCDF DEMOLITION page 3)



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(top) A view looking north towards TOCDF shows the facility shortly after demolition activities began. (bottom) A photo taken on March 14 shows the dramatic changes taking place as demolition crews continue to tear down the facility. The Munition Demilitarization Building (MDB) is nearly half way gone and to the right of the MDB, you see the Pollution Abatement System (PAS) lying on its side as crews continue to take it apart.



TOCDF's Site Project Manager to retire



Don Campbell, the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF) Site Project Manager (SPM), announced last week that he will retire from government services at the end of the month.

Campbell first arrived at the TOCDF in September 2012, bringing valuable experience from chemical storage and disposal operations to closure and environmental restoration and remediation. Since then, he has managed the Army oversight of TOCDF closure activities, including completion of secondary waste operations, TOCDF decontamination and decommissioning and helped bring a successful start to demolition activities.

"My time here at the TOCDF has been very rewarding," acknowledged Campbell. "I am very pleased of the workforce—both the URS and government staff—and what we have accomplished. As a result of the great teamwork, we have met milestones ahead of schedule, shaving millions from the projected budget. And that is tremendous. "

Reflecting on his career, Campbell highlighted his involvement with the chemical weapons storage and demil program. He has had the opportunity to see the Chemical Agent Munitions Disposal System built and years later decommissioned and razed. He has seen U.S. chemical weapons disposal facilities go from operations to demolition as 90 percent of U.S. stockpile was safely destroyed. He has watched the disposal facilities in Pueblo, Colo. and

Blue Grass, Ky. come to fruition.

"Throughout my career I've seen a lot of change, but there has been one constant factor when it comes to the success of this program—high quality staff," noted Campbell. "I have been so impressed with the competence and professionalism of the entire workforce, government and contractor alike."

Campbell and his wife Suzan had three goals in mind when it came to retirement; warm weather, proximity to water and the ability to enjoy their favorite hobby of boating. All this has materialized as they have established a home in Florida and they are looking forward to transitioning into retirement life.

With Campbell's departure, TOCDF Deputy SPM Trace Salmon will assume the SPM duties.

Where are they now?

A look back at the previous TOCDF SPMs

Timothy W. Thomas, 1989 – April 2000

Mr. Thomas led the Army oversight during TOCDF construction, startup and more than three years of operations. Thomas left the TOCDF project to bring his experience to the programmatic level, providing operational management of the TOCDF and Johnston Atoll Chemical Agent Disposal System and oversight for planning, construction and startup of Chem Demil facilities. Mr. Thomas is now retired.

John David Jackson, May 2000 – January 2001

Mr. Jackson served as the TOCDF SPM for nearly a year before retiring from government services. He accomplished a 30-year government career, including 21 years in activities related to chemical demilitarization. Jackson passed away in April 2009 at the age of 68.

Jim Hendricks, March 2001 – February 2002

Mr. Hendricks provided government oversight of the TOCDF as GB nerve agent operations were nearing completion and preparations were underway for changeover to the VX nerve agent campaign. Hendricks left the TOCDF to focus on special projects at the programmatic level. Mr. Hendricks is currently retired.

Dale A. Ormond, March 2002 – July 2004

Mr. Ormond took the TOCDF SPM reins as changeover to the VX nerve agent campaign was getting underway and led the way to a successful start of VX operations. Mr. (See TOCDF SPMs page 3)



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(clockwise) Demolition crews bring down three significant areas of the TOCDF—the common stack (top photos), the Pollution Abatement System (PAS) and the PAS Filtration System enclosure. These three components of the TOCDF were each part of a robust system that cooled, cleaned and monitored the furnace exhaust gases.

CLICK HERE to view footage of these demolition activities.

TOCDF Demolition

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ing TOCDF operations.

Operators made several small cuts in the PAS building's outer support columns, along with the removal of certain beams and diagonal bracing to weaken the structure. The center columns were left intact to create a pivot point. Special hinge-cuts were also made to the steel columns on the east side to cripple the structure and control where the building would fall. Finally, when the crew was ready to bring the building down, the anchor bolts were cut to allow the building to break away from the foundation.

"Heavy equipment operators pulled two main cables which were attached to a higher portion of the east side of the building, and it came down perfectly," said Fowles. "Within minutes, the demolition crew was pulling the building apart."

Meanwhile, the demolition crew has also been busy chomping away at the Munition Demilitarization Building (MDB), where the chemical weapons disposal operations once took place. Nearly half the building is gone and crews are busy segregat-

ing and sizing the debris so it can be prepared for off-site shipping.

"Demolition is going extremely well and much of that is due to the successful teamwork between URS and Envirocon [the demolition contractor]," said Fowles.

All demolition activities are expected to be complete by August.

TOCDF SPMs

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Ormond left the TOCDF to become the U.S. Army Deputy Assistant Secretary for Elimination of Chemical Weapons and is now serving as the Director of the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command.

Thaddeus A. Ryba, Jr., *October 2004 – August 2012*

Mr. Ryba served nearly 15 years at the TOCDF, including nearly 8 years as the SPM. As TOCDF operations came to an end, Ryba assisted with the transition into the closure phase as workers began to prepare the facility for demolition. Mr. Ryba left the TOCDF to serve in the office of Robert Mikulak, the U.S. Ambassador to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.



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